



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060-1270; FR ID 87271]

Information Collection Being Submitted for Review and Approval to Office of Management and Budget

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal Agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, the FCC seeks specific comment on how it might “further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.” The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. Your comment must be submitted into www.reginfo.gov per the above instructions for it to be considered. In addition to submitting in www.reginfo.gov also send a copy of your comment on the proposed information collection to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email to PRA@fcc.gov and to Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov. Include in the comments the OMB control number as shown in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele at (202) 418-2991. To view a copy of this information

collection request (ICR) submitted to OMB: (1) go to the web page

<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>, (2) look for the section of the Web page called "Currently

Under Review," (3) click on the downward-pointing arrow in the "Select Agency" box below the

"Currently Under Review" heading, (4) select "Federal Communications Commission" from the list of

agencies presented in the "Select Agency" box, (5) click the "Submit" button to the right of the "Select

Agency" box, (6) when the list of FCC ICRs currently under review appears, look for the Title of this ICR

and then click on the ICR Reference Number. A copy of the FCC submission to OMB will be displayed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the FCC invited the general public and other Federal Agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107-198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4), the FCC seeks specific comment on how it might "further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees."

OMB Control Number: 3060-1270.

Title: Protecting National Security Through FCC Programs.

Form Number: FCC Form 5640.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Respondents: Business or other for profit.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 3,500 respondents; 10,325 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 0.5-12 hours.

Frequency of Response: Annual, semi-annual and recordkeeping requirement.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this information collection is contained in 47 U.S.C. 1603-1604.

Total Annual Burden: 27,475 hours.

Total Annual Cost: \$1,125,000.

Privacy Act Impact Assessment: No impact(s).

Nature and Extent of Confidentiality: The Commission is not requesting that respondents submit confidential information to the FCC. However, respondents may request confidential treatment of their information under 47 CFR 0.459 of the Commission's rules.

Needs and Uses: The Commission will submit this information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a revision after this comment period to obtain the full three year clearance from OMB. Under this information collection, the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, requires the "preservation and advancement of universal service." 47 U.S.C. 254(b). The information collection requirements reported under this collection are the result of the Federal Communications Commission's (the Commission) actions to promote the Act's universal service goals.

On November 22, 2019, the Commission adopted the *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Report and Order, Order, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 34 FCC Rcd 11423 (2019) (*Report and Order*). The *Report and Order* prohibits future use of Universal Service Fund (USF) monies to purchase, maintain, improve, modify, obtain, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by a company that poses a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain.

On March 12, 2020, the President signed into law the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (Secure Networks Act), Pub. L. No. 116-124, 133 Stat. 158 (2020) (codified as amended at 47 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1609), which among other measures, directs the FCC to establish the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (Reimbursement Program). This program is

intended to provide funding to providers of advanced communications service for the removal, replacement and disposal of certain communications equipment and services that poses an unacceptable national security risk (i.e., covered equipment and services) from their networks. The Commission has designated two entities – Huawei Technologies Company (Huawei) and ZTE Corporation (ZTE), along with their affiliates, subsidiaries, and parents – as covered companies posing such a national security threat. *See Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs – Huawei Designation*, PS Docket No. 19-351, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 14435 (2020); *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs – ZTE Designation*, PS Docket No. 19-352, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 20-1399 (PSHSB rel. Nov. 24, 2020).

On December 10, 2020, the Commission adopted the *Second Report and Order* implementing the Secure Networks Act, which contained certain new information collection requirements. *See Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Second Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 14284 (2020) (*Second Report and Order*). These requirements will allow the Commission to receive, review and make eligibility determinations and funding decisions on applications to participate in the Reimbursement Program that are filed by certain providers of advanced communications service. These new information collection requirements will also assist the Commission in processing funding disbursement requests and in monitoring and furthering compliance with applicable program requirements to protect against waste, fraud, and abuse.

On December 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), appropriating \$1.9 billion to “carry out” the Reimbursement Program and amending the Reimbursement Program eligibility requirements to expand eligibility to include providers of advanced communications service with 10 million or fewer subscribers and making clear that schools, libraries, and health care providers are eligible to receive Reimbursement Program support to the extent they qualify as providers of advanced communications services. *See Pub. L. 116-260, Division N-Additional Coronavirus Response and Relief, Title IX-Broadband Internet Access Service, §§ 901, 906, 134 Stat. 1182 (2020)*. The Commission has interpreted the term “provider of advanced communications service” to mean “facilities-based providers, whether fixed or mobile, with a broadband connection to end users with at

least 200 kbps in one direction.” *Second Report and Order*, 35 FCC Rcd at 14332, para. 111.

Participation in the Reimbursement Program is voluntary but compliance with the new information collection requirements is required to obtain Reimbursement Program support. The Commission adopted a *Third Report and Order* on July 13, 2021, implementing the amendments to the Secure Networks Act by the CAA for the Reimbursement Program. See *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Third Report and Order, FCC 21-86 (rel. July 14, 2021) (*Third Report and Order*).

Separate from the Reimbursement Program, the Secure Networks Act requires all providers of advanced communications service to annually report, with exception, on whether they have purchased, rented, leased or otherwise obtained covered communications equipment or service on or after certain dates. 47 U.S.C. § 1603(d)(2)(B). The *Second Report and Order* adopted a new information collection requirement to implement this statutory mandate. See Secure Networks Act § 5. If the provider certifies it does not have any covered equipment and services, then the provider is not required to subsequently file an annual report, unless it later obtains covered equipment and services. *Second Report and Order*, 35 FCC Rcd at 14370, at para. 215.

The Commission therefore propose to revise this information collection, as well as Form 5460, to reflect this new requirement contained in the *Public Notice* released by the Bureau on August 3, 2021. This Public Notice, among other things, requires providers participating in the Reimbursement Program to notify the Commission of ownership changes using the FCC Form 5640 to ensure the accuracy of information on file for program participants when there is a change in ownership.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary.

Office of the Secretary.